



# LINGO

Leave it in the Ground Initiative

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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# The Team



Kjell Kühne  
LINGO Director



Joseph Kenson Sakala  
LINGO Board Member & ED of Youth for  
Sustainable Development Malawi (YSD)



Margaux Paine  
Fossil Free Zones  
Project Coordinator



Alice McGown  
Geographic Information  
System Specialist



Fatima Yassine  
MENA Region Project Coordinator &  
Lecturer at the Lebanese University



Francesco Loyola  
Operations Manager &  
Fundraising Coordinator

*And thank you to all our interns and volunteers who supported  
us during the development of our projects in 2022!*

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends of LINGO,

**This year has been full of exciting new developments in our work.** We have taken great strides since the beginning of the year to grow as an organisation, as a diverse team with members all over the world, and as activists pushing towards the end of the fossil fuel age. Since onboarding our first official staff member in 2021, we now have 2 more, allowing us to transform LINGO's visions into tangible reality. I am pleased to share some notable milestones with you, which we will go into more detail below:

- **We have published our research on Carbon Bombs**, the world's largest fossil fuel projects with the potential to release over 1 Gigatonne of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in their lifetimes. **This new framing is [uniting efforts](#) to push back against the fossil fuel industry**, and we will work hard in the following years to support opposition all over the world.
- **We are now members of the [Ummah for Earth alliance](#)**, joining efforts in the **MENA region** and the Muslim world to accelerate ambitious climate and energy discourse.
- **We have launched the [Fossil Free Zones](#)**, a *bottom-up climate action matrix* that intends to establish being "fossil free" as a new norm. We are excited to celebrate the voices of those who are already moving away from fossil fuels in their own environments, and hope that this matrix will enable a movement that identifies the pathways and speeds up the pace of the move to the post-fossil age.

After two decades as an advocate for a fossil free world, I acknowledge that every milestone is an opportunity to cover more ground. There is still a long road ahead for us, and the bulk of our work is still to come. Although, as my eyes are set on the future, I would like to take a moment to express my sincerest gratitude to our donors, colleagues, and all those who supported LINGO over this year.

**Kjell Kühne**  
Director

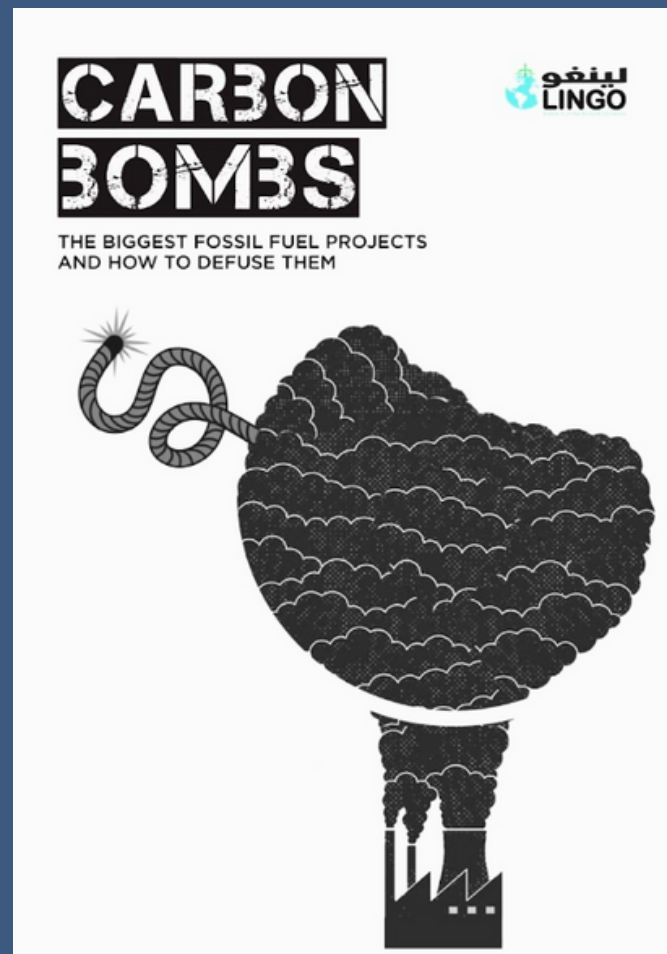
# EXPLORE OUR PROGRESS IN 2022

CARBON BOMBS  
FOSSIL FREE ZONES  
MENA REGION  
UNBURNABLE CARBON  
IN PROTECTED AREAS

**"425 gigaton-sized fossil fuel projects will blow up our climate. Let's defuse them."**

-- Kjell Kühne





# Carbon Bombs

In May, we saw the culmination of the Carbon Bombs research, published in an [academic article](#) in the academic journal Energy Policy. We were finally able to disclose the information we had been working on for years which picked up interest from [international media](#) after it was featured on the front page of the Guardian.

We have collaborated on a number of articles since then, putting a spotlight on companies involved in [Russian Carbon Bombs](#) and simultaneously looking into “unattended” Carbon Bombs in China, the MENA region among others. We have given interviews on Carbon Bombs for France, Canada, Germany, and the UK. We presented our research during a [side-event](#) at COP27 in Egypt, and invited colleagues on the frontlines of defusing Carbon Bombs in 5 different countries to share their stories and the importance of their fight.



*Kjell with colleagues Liliana Ávila, Dickens Kamugisha and Soumya Dutta (right to left) at our COP27 side event on defusing Carbon Bombs.*

# Fossil Free Zones

During this year, the Fossil Free Zones bottom-up climate action matrix took its first steps. **We are excited to have officially launched [Fossil Free Zones](#) in November at COP27, with 200+ Fossil Free Zones registered on our [public map](#).** The movement began to grow immediately when we presented a workshop on Fossil Free Education at the Children and Youth Pavilion at COP27. We partner with Legisladores x el Ambiente and the FracTracker alliance, who are working with us to facilitate the emergence of a global movement that ends fossil fuels everywhere.

**We initiated the process for the creation of a Publicly Available Specification (PAS), developed in collaboration with the [British Standards Institution](#).** We plan to help write the rules for entrepreneurs to follow in order to bring a “Fossil Free Product” to the market. The specification can provide the basis for labeling products that are manufactured entirely without the burning of fossil fuels.



*Cover pages of two case studies of existing emerging Fossil Free Zones.*



*Francesco presenting at a workshop on Fossil Free Education at the Youth and Children's Pavilion at COP27.*



Webinar on Unburnable Carbon in Protected Areas in the MENA Region

# MENA Region

Spreading the “keep it in the ground” idea in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was one of LINGO’s priorities in 2022.

**This has been a pivotal year in our efforts in the MENA Region.** As an international organisation, our first major steps have been to understand local movements and where we could come in to accelerate existing processes, as well as developing new approaches. For this, we established a rich network of local partners keen to work together towards our shared missions.

Our most notable interventions so far have been reaching over 300 journalists and activists through a series of webinars, launching a social media campaign on Arabic climate and environmental terminology with the instagram initiative [ArabicWords](#), reaching 173,000 accounts and preparing a list of useful concepts in Arabic that we are developing into a glossary.

In partnership with the High Atlas Foundation (HAF), we also have planned a conference on “Islam & Climate Emergency” to be co-hosted by LINGO, HAF, UNEP Faith for Earth, and other organizations in February 2023 in Fes, Morocco.

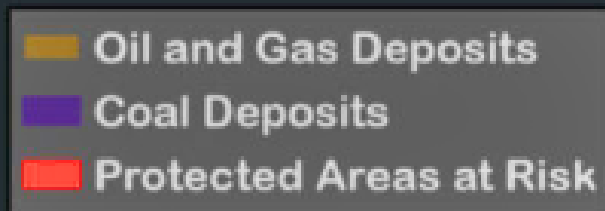


# Unburnable Carbon in Protected Areas

**As we pressed on with our efforts to map fossil fuels underneath protected areas worldwide, 2022 saw a number of exciting developments.**

We onboarded a project coordinator, marking the start of a journey towards an organised initiative. By the end of the year we had collected enough resources to share our findings in 3 languages and regions: Russian, Arabic and French.

**We reached over 100 academics, researchers and activists working on similar topics in preparation for our official launch in 2023.**



## Fossil Fuels in Protected Areas <sup>8</sup>

# Financials

In 2022, LINGO received a total of **€224,639** from individuals and organisations across the world.

Revenue:	2022	2021
● Grants	€215,768	€32,900
● Donations	8,871	1,278
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Total	€224,639	€34,178



# OUR FUNDERS

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[www.leave-it-in-the-ground.org](http://www.leave-it-in-the-ground.org)



[info@leave-it-in-the-ground.org](mailto:info@leave-it-in-the-ground.org)



+49-351-27374281



Germany | Augustusweg 59, 01445 Radebeul